AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace paragraph 0043 with the following paragraph.

[0043] In the description that follows, the invention will be described with reference to acts and symbolic representations of operations that are performed by one or more computer, unless indicated otherwise. As such, it will be understood that such acts and operations, which are at times referred to as being computer-executed, include the manipulation by the processing unit of the computer of electrical signals representing data in a structured form. This manipulation transforms the data or maintains it at locations in the memory system of the computer, which reconfigures or otherwise alters the operation of the computer in a manner well understood by those skilled in the art. The data structures where data is maintained are physical locations of the memory that have particular properties defined by the format of the data. However, while the invention is being described in the foregoing context, it is not meant to be limiting as those of skill in the art will appreciate that various of the acts and operation described hereinafter may also be implemented in hardware. As introduced above, the success of a peer-to-peer (P2P) protocol depends on the protocol's ability to establish valid connections between selected entities. Likewise, the formation of groups in such a P2P network relies on this ability. Because a particular user may connect to the network in various ways at various locations having different addresses, a preferred approach is to assign a unique identity to the user or the group, and then resolve that identity to a particular address or addresses through the protocol. Such a peer-to-peer name resolution protocol (PNRP) to which the methods of the instant invention find particular applicability is described in co-pending application Ser. No. 09/942,164, entitled Peer-To-Peer Name Resolution Protocol (PNRP) And Multilevel Cache For Use Therewith, filed on Aug. 29, 2001, and in co-pending application Ser. No. 09/955,924, entitled Peer-To-Peer Name Resolution Protocol (PNRP) Group Security Infrastructure And Method, filed on even date herewith, the teachings and disclosure of which are hereby incorporated in their entireties by reference thereto. However, one skilled in the art will recognize from the following teachings that the methods of the present invention are not limited to the particular peer-to-peer protocol of these co-pending applications, but may be applied to other protocols with equal force. Likewise, co-pending application Ser. No. 09/956,260, entitled Peer-To-Peer Name Resolution Protocol

(PNRP) Security Infrastructure And Method, filed on even date herewith, describes an underlying security infrastructure that ensures that the identities of the various entities within the network are valid, without unnecessary burdening the network with excess traffic. The teachings and disclosure of this application are also incorporated in their entireties by reference thereto.